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Contribution to the knowledge of the Histeridae from South India (Coleoptera)

by

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With 18 figures

Summary

285 Histerid beetles, representing 32 species, had been collected in Southern India. *Hindophelister* nov. gen. (type species: *H. dervish* n. sp.), *Bacanius (Pseudobacanius)* nov. subgen. (type species: *B.(P.) szyszkoi* n. sp.), *Bacanius (A.) goliath* n. sp., *Bacanius (V.) bicolor* n. sp., *Bacanius (P). similis* n. sp., *Epierus indiicola* n. sp., *Tribalus margiventer* n. sp., *Tribalus (E.) pseudostrialis* n. sp., and *Margarinotus (G.) meridionalis* n. sp. are described and figured. The species *Platysoma mimicus* Lewis is transferred to the genus *Eurylister*.

The present paper is based on material collected by members of the staff of the Natural History Museum in Geneva—Dr Claude Besuchet, Dr Ivan Löbl and Mr Robert Mussard—in South India between October 30 and December 6, 1972. 285 specimens, belonging to 32 species, had been found. One genus, one subgenus and nine species are described as new to science. All specimens mentioned are deposited in the Natural History Museum in Geneva. I wish to express my gratitude to Dr Ivan Löbl who gave me the opportunity to study this interesting collection.

LIST OF SPECIES

Aeletes sp.

Material: Kerala, Cardamon Hills, 2 km north-east of Kumily, 4 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Note: Probably a new species but I hesitate to describe it on a base of one specimen only.

Trypeticus veda (Lew.)

Tryponaeus veda Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (5), vol. 15, p. 470, 1885; *Trypeticus veda*, Lewis, *Syst. Cat. Hlst.*, p. 8, 1905.

Material: Kerala, Cardamon Hills, Kumily, 6 XI 1972, 1000 m, 11 specimens from decaying tree-stamps.

Distribution: Ceylon (Sri-Lanka). New to India.

Bacanius (Mullerister) inopinatus Schmidt

Bacanius inopinatus Schmidt, *Bull. Soc. Ent. France*, p. cii, 1893; *Bacanius (Mullerister) inopinatus* Cooman, *Not. Ent. Chin.*, vol. 3, p. 138, 1936.

Material: Madras, Anaimalai Hills, above Aliyar Dam, 18 XI 1972, 1150 m, 2 specimens sieved in forest; Madras, Nilgiri Hills, 20 km east of Coonoor, 19 XI 1972, 650 m, 19 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: Madagascar, Seychelles Is., Reunion Is., Maurice Is., Ceylon. New to India.

Bacanius (Mullerister) cinghalanus Thér.

Bacanius (Mullerister) cinghalanus Thérond, *Rev. suisse Zool.*, vol. 80, p. 405, 1973.

Material: Madras, Cardamom Hills, 2 km north-east of Kumily, 4 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest; Madras, Nilgiri Hills, 15 km east of Coonoor, 19 XI 1972, 900 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: Ceylon. New to India.

Note: Most of the characters agree with those given in the original description, there are only a few differences (fig. 1, 2).

Bacanius (Mullerister) sp. 1

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Pambanar-Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 950 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest on a riverside.

Bacanuis (Mullerister) sp. 2

Material: Madras, Cardamom Hills, 2 km north-east of Kumily, 4 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Note: Unfortunately, only one specimen each had been collected.

Bacanius (Antongilus) goliath sp. n.

Body shortly-oval, strongly convex, darkish-brown. Funiculus and antennal club straw-yellow. Head coarsely and closely punctured with a longitudinal carina between the eyes. Pronotum narrowed, rather closely punctured, the punctures fines on the disc, coarser laterally. Marginal stria complete, the antescutellar one absent.

Elytrae (fig. 3) a little more coarsely and rarely punctate than pronotum, the suture a little elevated, smooth. The base of each elytra with a fine trace of the oblique dorsal stria. The inner subhumeral stria complete, confluent with elytral margin (as in *Anapleus* Horn). Epipleura smooth, bistriate. Pygidium coarsely punctured basally, the punctures becoming finer apically.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 4) coarsely and closely punctate, the prosternum nearly quadrate, rather coarsely punctured basally, Mesosternum bisinuate, meso- and metasternal disc coarsely punctate, meso-metasternal suture nearly indistinct.

Legs rusty-red, the protibiae incurved with two distinct dents.

Length: 1.5 mm; width: 1.2 mm.

Holotype: A specimen of undetermined sex, Kerala, Nelliampathi Hills, Kaikatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, sieved in forest.

Paratype: A specimen of undetermined sex, same locality and data as the type.

It is the largest known species in the genus *Bacanius* LeConte.

Bacanius (Vadonus) bicolor sp. n.

Body elongate oval, flattened, reddish-brown, shining, the suture and base of elytrae blacken. Head smooth, the forehead black, convex without striae, the epistoma and labrum brown. Antennae rusty-red, the antennal club ciliate. Pronotum very finely and rarely punctate, the base transversally impressed and more strongly punctured. Marginal stria complete.

Elytrae (fig. 5) more rarely punctate than pronotum, the punctures with a tendency to form into irregular rows. Shortened quasi-sutural and some oblique dorsal striae rather distinct basally. Inner subhumeral stria fine, complete. Epipleura and lower side smooth, the pygidium nearly smooth (fig. 6).

Prosternal lobe straight at the anterior margin, fine marginal stria complete. Carinal stria of the prosternum parallel. Anterior margin of the mesosternum bisinuate, the mesosternum with a strong, crenulate median stria confluent with meso-metasternal suture.

Legs rusty-yellow, the protibia expanded with some spinules.

Length: 0,9 mm; width: 0.6 mm.

Holotype; A specimen of undetermined sex, Madras, Anaimalai Hills, 18 km north of Valparai, 18 XI 1972, 1250 m, sieved in forest.

Paratype: A specimen of undetermined sex, same locality and data as the type.

From the other representative of this subgenus, *B. (V.) schmidti* Gomy from Madagascar., it is distinguishable chiefly by the impunctate lower side.

Pseudobacanius subgen. n.

It differs from *Bacanius* s. str. in the following characters: meso-metasternal suture distinct, crenulate; inner subhumeral stria absent, mandibles of the male with a distinct tooth (fig. 7). From *Abraeomorphus* Reitter it differs in having a normally developed prosternal lobe and the mesosternum.

Type species: *Bacanius szyszkoi* sp. n.

Bacanius (Pseudobacanius) szyszkoi sp. n.

Shortly oval, irregulary convex (similary as in *Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata* L.), brownish-pitch-black. Forehead a little impressed, rather rarely punctate, charigned. Antennal club elongate, rather closely ciliate. Mandibles of the male with a sharp tooth (fig. 7). Pronotum narrowed anteriorly, distinctly and rather closely but not too coarsely punctate. Base of the pronotum not too strongly, transversally impressed. Marginal stria complete, antescutellar one absent.

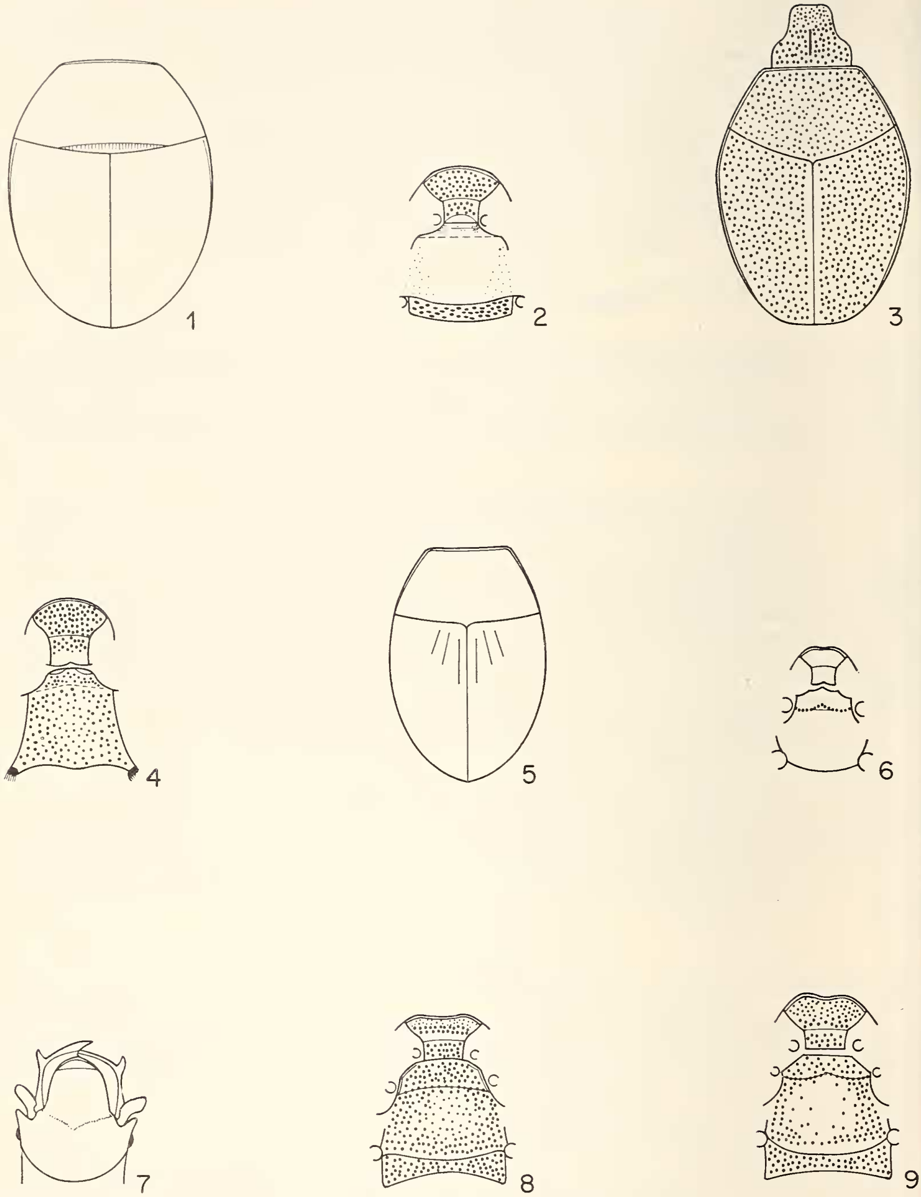

FIG. 1 to 9.

Bacanius.—1. *B. (Mullerister) cinghalanus* Thér., upper side.—2. *Id.*, lower side.—3. *B. (Antongilus) goliath* sp. n., upper side.—4. *Id.*, lower side.—5. *B. (Vadonus) bicolor* sp. n., upper side.—6. *Id.*, lower side.—7. *B. (Pseudobacanius) szyszkoi* sp. n., head.—8. *Id.*, lower side.—9. *B. (Pseudobacanius) similis* sp. n., lower side.

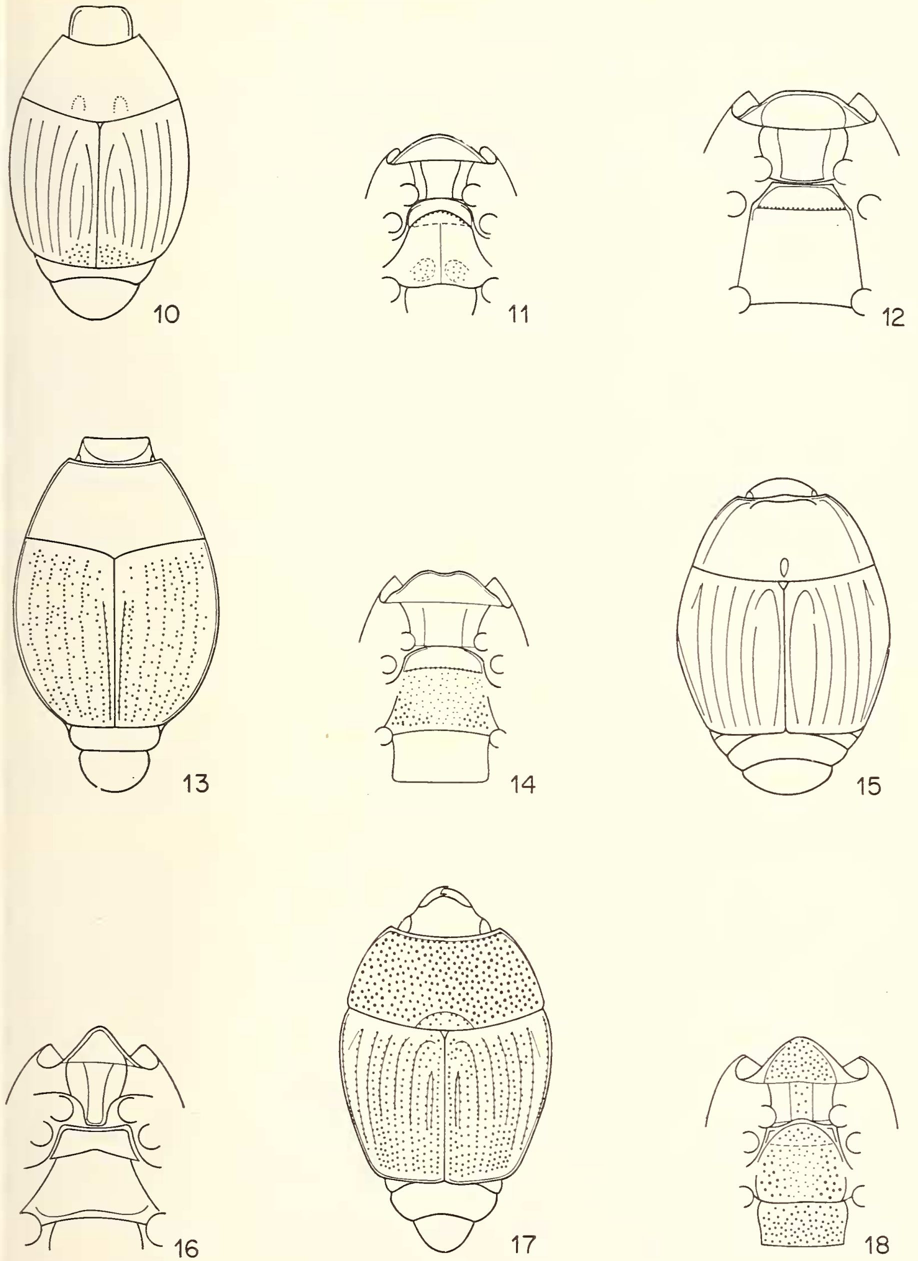

Fig. 10 to 18.

10. *Epierus indiicola* sp. n., upper side.—11. *Id.*, lower side.—12. *Tribalus margiventer* sp. n., lower side.—13. *Tribalus (Eutribalus) pseudostrialis* sp. n., upper side.—14. *Id.*, lower side.—15. *Marginotus (Grammostethus) meridionalis* sp. n., upper side.—16. *Id.*, lower side.—17. *Hindophelister dervisch* sp. n., upper side.—18. *Id.*, lower side.

Elytrae as coarsely as pronotum but rarely punctate. The punctures a little elongated. Subhumeral striae absent. Epipleural stria distinct.

Anterior margin of the prosternal lobe finely (fig. 8) sinuate, margined. The prosternal lobe in apical part distinctly punctate, the punctures becoming progressively finer basally. Mesosternum coarsely punctured, its anterior margin nearly straight. Metasternum impressed at middle, coarsely punctured laterally, very finely at the middle. Pygidium distinctly, rather finely punctate.

Legs brownish-red, the protibiae expanded with three dents.

Length: 0.9-1.3 mm; width: 0,7-1.0 mm.

Holotype: A male, Madras. Palni Hills, Berijam Lake, 23 km east of Kodaikanal, 14 XI 1972, 2150 m, sieved in *Rhododendron* forest.

Allotype: A female, same locality and data as the type.

Paratypes: Madras, Palni Hills, Kodaikanal, 11 XI 1972, 2100 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest; Palni Hills, Berijam Lake, 23 km east of Kodaikanal, 14 XI 1972, 2150 m, 28 specimens of both sexes sieved in rhododendron forest; Palni Hills, 10 km north-east of Kodaikanal, 15 XI 1972, 2150 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest; Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 13 km north-east of Munnar, 26 XI 1972, 1900 m, 49 specimens of both sexes sieved in forest.

The curious character, the tooth on the mandibles of the male, is hitherto not known in any other species of Histeridae and separates it from all species of the genus **Bacanius** LeConte.

I dedicate this species to my friend Dr. Jan Szyszko (Institute of Forest and Wood Protection of the Warsaw Agricultural University).

Bacanius (Pseudobacanius) similis sp. n.

Very similar to *B. (P.) szyszkoi* sp. n. from which it differs as follows: colour black, shining; upper side more coarsely and rarely punctate; anterior margin of prosternal lobe strongly sinuate (fig. 9), under side uniformely, coarsely punctate, the middle of metasternum smooth, the metasternum not impressed.

Holotype: A male, Madras, Palni Hills, 10 km north-east of Kodaikanal, 15 XI 1972, 2150 m, sieved in forest.

Allotype: A female, Madras, Palni Hills, Kodaikanal, 11 XI 1972, 2100 m, sieved in forest.

Paratypes: 6 specimens of both sexes, Madras, Palni Hills, 10 km north-east of Kodaikanal, 15 XI 1972, 2150 m, sieved in forest.

Bacanius (Bacanius) gestroi Schmidt

Bacanius Gestroi Schmidt, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, (2), vol 13 (33), p. 238, 1893.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Pambanar—Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 950 m, 10 specimens sieved in forest on riverside; Kerala, Nelliampathi Hills, Kaikatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, 7 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: New Guinea. Not recorded from India before.

Abraeomorphus sp.

Material: Kerala, Nelliampathis Hills, Kaikatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Note: Probably a new species but its identity must be confirmed on larger material.

Xepystige fryi Lew.

Xepystige Fryi Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (6), vol. 9, p. 348, 1892.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Pambanar—Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 950 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest on riverside; Kerala, Nelliampathi Hills, Kaikatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Distribution: Birma. New to India.

Platylomalus oceanitis (Mars.)

Paromalus oceanitis Marseul, *Monogr. Histér.*, p. 110, t. 8 (XXII), f. 4, 1855; *Paromalus biarculus* Marseul, *Ann. Soc. Ent. Belge*, vol. 13, p. 104, 1870, part.; *Paromalus ceylanicus* Marseul, *loc. cit.*, p. 95, 1870 nec Motschulsky, *Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou*, vol. 36 (I), p. 456, 1863; *Paromalus vermiculatus* Lewis, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, (2), vol. 12 (32), p. 33, 1892; *Platylomalus oceanitis*, THÉROND, *Opusc. Zool.*, vol. 10, p. 336, 1970.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Valara Fall, 46 km southwest of Munnar, 25 XI 1972, 450-500 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest on riverside.

Distribution: Philippines, Taiwan, Viet-Nam, Laos, Birma, Java, Sumatra, New Guinea, Australia, Ceylon. New to India.

Epiechinus taprobanae Lew.

Epiechinus taprobanae Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (6), vol. 9, p. 355, 1892.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 2 km north-east of Kumily, 4 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Distribution: Ceylon, Viet-Nam. New to India.

Epierus indiicola sp. n.

Body elongate-oval, a little depressed, pitch-black, shining. Forehead a little impressed, finely but distinctly punctate. Supraorbital stria distinct along the eyes only. Antennal club rusty-red, tomentose. Pronotum narrowed anteriorly, more rarely punctate than the head, the base with two, rugosely punctate, shallow foveae. Marginal stria widely interrupted behind the head. Elytrae (fig. 10) rounded at sides, distinctly punctured apically. Outer subhumeral stria abbreviated anteriorly, marginal epipleural stria complete. Dorsal striae 1-4 complete, the 5th abbreviated anteriorly and posteriorly, sutural stria nearly complete longer than the 5th. Between it and the 5th there is also a fine fragment of the 6th dorsal stria. Propygidium similarly punctured as the pronotum, pygidium more finely punctate.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 11) margined anteriorly, indistinctly punctate. Prosternum wide, smooth. Carinal striae distinct, a little divergent anteriorly. Anterior margin of the mesosternum rounded, the marginal stria interrupted. The mesosternum with semicircular crenulate stria, meso-metasternal suture nearly absent. Metasternum finely punctured posteriorly, with two indistinct shallow depressions et apex. Marginal stria distinct.

Legs pitch-brown, the protibiae multispinulose.

Length- PE—1.7 mm; total: 2.3 mm; width: 1,4 mm.

Holotype: A male, Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 5 km west of Kumily, 6 XI 1972, 1000 m, from under bark of trees.

Paratype: A specimen of undetermined sex, Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 7 km west of Peermade, 9 XI 1972, from under bark of trees.

In some characters affinities are given to those of *Parepierus* Bickhardt, but body flattened, dorsal striae not abbreviated, etc.

Tribalus punctillatus Bickh.

Tribalus punctillatus Bickhardt, *Ent. Mitt.*, vol. 2, p. 174, 1913; *Tribalus puncticollis* Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8), vol. 16, p. 56, 1915, error.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 2 km north-east of Kumily, 4 XI 1972, 900 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest; Cardamom Hills, 5 km west of Kumily, 6 XI 1972, 1000 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest; Cardamom Hills, Periyar, environ of Hotel Aranya Nivas, 7 XI 1972, 950 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest near lake; Cardamom Hills, Pambanar—Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 950 m, 13 specimens sieved in forest near river; Kerala, Anaimalai Hills, Valparai, 20 XI 1972, 1100 m, 2 specimens sieved in forest with coffee trees; Kerala, Nelliampathi Hills, Kaitatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, 7 specimens sieved in forest near streamlet; Nelliampathi Hills, Pothundy Dam, 30 XI 1972, 300 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest in a ravine.

Distribution: Taiwan, Birma. New to India.

Tribalus hornii Lew.

Tribalus Hornii Lewis, *Ann, Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (7), vol. 7, p. 244, 1901.

Material: Madras, Madurai, 2 XI 1972, 1 specimen in hotel's garden.

Distribution: Ceylon, India.

Tribalus (s. str.) margiventer sp. n.

Body elongate-oval, moderately convex, brownish-black, with a brassy tinge, shining. Head flat, nearly impunctate, supraorbital stria present along the eyes only. Forehead strongly elevated over the eyes. The elevated carinae convergent anteriorly on epistoma. Antennae rusty-red. Pronotum very finely punctate on the disc, with a row of very coarse elongate punctures basally in front of scutellum. Marginal stria complete, very distinct, impressed laterally and crenulate apically.

Elytrae very finely punctate, reddish colored apically. Dorsal striae 1-3 very fine, indistinct. The 1st nearly complete, the others abbreviated, the 3rd extends to the middle of elytra. Outer subhumeral stria fine, complete. Epipleura smooth, bistriate. Propygidium and pygidium reddish-brown, very finely and rarely punctate.

Lower side (fig. 12) nearly smooth. Prosternal lobe rarely but distinctly punctate, strongly margined by semicircular stria. Marginal stria widely interrupted. Carinal striae of the prosternum distinct, a little divergent posteriorly. The prosternum margined basally with a fine stria. Anterior margin of the mesosternum straight, the mesosternum distinctly but finely margined. Meso-metasternal suture distinct, crenulate.

Legs reddish-brown, the protibiae multispinulose.

Length: PE—2.5 mm; total: 3.0 mm; width: 2.0 mm.

Holotype and paratype. sex undetermined: 2 specimens, Madras, Udamalpet, 26 XI 1972, 400 m, at the banks of lake.

Similar to *T. hornii* Lew., but the curious sternum separates it from all Indian *Tribalus*.

Tribalus (Eutribalus) puncticeps Lew.

Tribalus puncticeps Lewis, *Ann, Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8), vol. 2, p. 151, 1908.

Material: Madras, Nilgiri Hills, 7 km east of Coonoor, 19 XI 1972, 1350 m, 20 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: India—Nilgiri Hills.

Tribalus (Eutribalus) pseudostrialis sp. n.

Body oval, convex, brown, shining. Antennae and legs rusty-red. Head finely and rarely punctate, the forehead over the eyes elevated. The elevated carinae nearly united anteriorly on epistoma. Pronotum finely and rarely punctate, the punctures becoming coarser in front of scutellum. Marginal stria complete.

Elytrae (fig. 13) finely and rarely punctured, with irregular rows of coarse punctures and with coarse punctures intermixted. Suture elevated posteriorly, the sutural stria rather distinct, abbreviated basally, crenulate. Both subhumeral striae fine, complete, punctate. Epipleura smooth, bistriate. Pygidium very finely punctate.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 14) sinuous at anterior margin, nearly smooth, Marginal stria complete. Prosternum very sparsely punctate, carinal striae nearly parallel, distinct. Marginal mesosternal stria interrupted, meso-metasternal suture crenulate, distinct. Metasternum very finely and rarely punctate on the disc, with some coarse punctures basally and laterally.

Protibiae a little incurved, multispinulose.

Length: PE—1.8 mm; (total: 2.3 mm; width: 1.5 mm.

Holotype and paratypes, sex undetermined: Madras, Palni Hills, 7 km east of Kodaikanal, 12 XI 1972, 1750 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest; Palni Hills, Kodaikanal, 11 XI 1972, 2100 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

There is no other species similar to this.

Platylister sororius Lew.

Platylister sororius Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (7), vol. 14, p. 142, 1904.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 5 km west of Kumily, 6 XI 1972, 1000 m, 1 specimen from under bark of trees; Cardamom Hills, 7 km west of Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 800 m, 1 specimen from under bark of trees.

Distribution: South India, Birma, Viet-Nam.

Eurylister mimicus (Lew.) comb. n.

Platysoma mimicum Lewis, *Ann, Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8), vol. 13, p. 239, 1914.

Material: Madras, Anaimalai Hills, 18 km north of Valparai, 8 XI 1972, 1250 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Distribution: South India.

Note: Because of its prosternal striation this species ought to belong to the genus *Eurylister* Bickhardt.

Platysoma dohrni Mars.

Platysoma Dohrni Marseul, *Abeille*, vol. 1, p. 306, 1864.

Material: Kerala, Anaimalai Hills, 48 km north-east of Munnar, near Maraiyur, 24 XI 1972, 700 m, 2 specimens sieved in forest near river.

Distribution: Ceylon, India, Birma, Viet-Nam, Philippines.

Note: In author's opinion it is synonymous with *P. luzonicum* Er. (see also SCHMIDT, *Berlin. Ent. Z.*, vol. 28, p. 158, 1884). The interrupted marginal pronotal stria which, after DESBORDES, *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*, vol. 87, p. 364, 1919, separates it from *P. luzonicum* Er., may be an aberration.

Platysoma sp.

Material: Madras, Nilgiri Hills, 20 km east of Coonoor, 19 XI 1972, 650 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Note: Probably an undescribed species of the *rimarium* group.

Hister javanicus Payk.

Hister javanicus Paykull, *Monogr. Histeroid.*, p. 30, t. 4, f. 2, 1811; *Hister carnaticus* Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (5), vol. 16, p. 210, 1885.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Thekkady near Periyar, 7 XI 1972, 900 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: Ceylon, India, Birma, Java.

Margarinotus (Grammostethus) meridionalis sp. n.

Body oval, moderately convex, brownish-black, shining. Mandibles long, reddish-brown, very finely punctate. Head finely punctate, frontal stria very distinct, impressed, semicircular. Antennae rusty-red, the antennal club tomentose. Pronotum rounded at sides, rather strongly narrowed anteriorly, its anterior margin feebly bisinuate. Punctulation of the pronotum fine and rare, the pronotal base with an elongated rather deep fovea in front of scutellum. Convex lateral margins as well as the narrow spot at anterior margin reddish. Marginal stria interrupted behind the head, extends the base. Lateral stria strongly impressed laterally, twice interrupted anteriorly as figured (fig. 15).

Elytrae rounded, paler and similarly punctured as on pronotum, with reddish-brown maculae near the humeri and reddish-brown apical margin. Outer subhumeral stria very distinct, complete. Dorsal striae 1-4 complete, punctate, the 5th extends two third of elytral length. Sutural stria complete, arched basally but not united with the 5th. Propygidium with two indistinct foveae and two reddish maculae laterally, covered with ocellate punctures and with the fine punctures intermixed. Pygidium convex, widely reddish colored apically, the punctulation similar but finer as on propygidium.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 16) smooth, distinctly margined. Prosternum very rarely punctate, the carinal striae distinct, united basally and divergent apically. Anterior margin of the mesosternum nearly straight, the mesosternum very finely and rarely punctate. Marginal stria complete, depressed. Mesometasternal suture very distinct, elevated. Metasternum similary punctate as mesosternum. Transversal stria at the apex distinct, impressed.

Legs rusty-red, the protibiae with 7-8 spinules, meso and metatibiae multispinulose.

Length: PE—3.0 mm; total: 4.0 mm; width: 3.0 mm.

Holotype: A male, Kerala, Nelliampathi Hills, Kaikatty, 30 XI 1972, 900 m, sieved in forest near streamlet.

The elytral striation of this species resembles that of the Formosan *M. (G.) curvicollis* (Bickh.) and the European *M. (G.) marginatus* (Er.), but both these species are very different.

Peranus daldorffi (Bed.)

Hister Daldorffi Bedel, *Bull. Soc. Ent. France*, p. 91, 1906; *Hister bipustulatus* Fabricius, *Suppl. Ent. Syst.*, p. 38, 1798 nec Schrank, *Enum. Ins. Austr.*, p. 37, 1781; *Peranus bipustulatus*, Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (7), vol. 18, p. 401, 1906.

Material: Kerala, Walayar Forest, Palghat—Coimbatore, 23 XI 1972, 400 m, 1 specimen coll. on riverside.

Distribution: Ceylon, India, Bangla-Desh, Birma, Indochina.

Atholus torquatus (Mars.)

Hister torquatus Marseul, *Monog. Histér.*, p. 587, t. 10, f. 146, 1854; *Hister genuae* Lewis, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, (2), vol. 6 (26), p. 639, 1888; *Atholus torquatus*, Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (7), vol. 18, p. 402, 1906.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Thekkady near Periyar, 7 XI 1972, 900 m, 1 specimen sieved in forest.

Distribution: India, Indochina, Java.

Atholus philippinensis (Mars.)

Hister Philippinensis Marseul, *Monogr. Histér.*, p. 547, t. 9 (XI), f. 118, 1854; *Hister sectator* Lewis, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (7), vol. 8, p. 375, 1901; *Atholus philippinensis*, Lewis, *loc. cit.*, (7), vol. 18, p. 402, 1906.

Material: Madras. Anaimalai Hills, Aliyar Dam, 17 XI 1972, 550 m, 1 specimen sivend in forest.

Distribution: Philippines, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indochina, Birma. New to India.

Epitoxasia nitens Coom.

Epitoxasia nitens Cooman, *Bull. Soc. Ent. France*, vol. 37, p. 135, 1932.

Material: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, Pambanar—Peermade, 9 XI 1972, 950 m, 2 specimens sieved in forest near a river; Cardamom Hills, Valara Fall, 46 km southwest of Munnar, 25 XI 1972, 450-500 m, 4 specimens sieved in forest.

Distribution: Viet-Nam. New to India.

Hindophelister gen. n.

This genus belongs to the tribe Exosternini and is placed between *Epitoxasia* Coom. and *Binhister* Coom. From the first it differs in the absence of frontal striae and presence of an antescutellar line and from *Binhister* Coom. it differs generally in the unlike denticulated protibiae. Some characters such as double sutural stria resemble those of *Anaglymma* Lew., others trace to *Phelister* Mars., too.

The name of this genus is of the masculine gender.

Type species: *Hindophelister dervish* sp. n.

Hindophelister dervish sp. n.

Body oval (fig. 17), feebly convex, reddish-brown. Head coarsely but not too closely punctate, the forehead a little impressed. Supraorbital and frontal striae absent. Mandibles convex, finely punctulate. Antennae paler than body. Pronotum rather coarsely but not too closely punctate, the punctures separate by their 1-2 diameters. Marginal stria complete, behind the head crenulate. The pronotal base with fine antescutellar line in front of scutellum. Suture and base of elytrae darkish. Dorsal striae 1-5 distinct, punctate, the 5th arched basally, the sutural stria double, abbreviated basally and apically. Outer subhumeral stria complete reaching and joining with an apical one. The intervals 2-5 with a row of coarse punctures. Epipleura smooth, bistriate. Propygidium coarsely punctate on the disc, the punctures becoming finer basally and apically. Pygidium with two indistinct foveae laterally, rarely and finely punctate.

Prosternal lobe (fig. 18) distinctly but not too closely punctate, marginal stria interrupted. Prosternum very rarely punctate. Carinal striae nearly parallel. Mesosternum bisinuate, finely and rarely punctate, without distinct median projection. Marginal stria complete. Meso-metasternal suture indistinct. Metasternum very coarsely punctured laterally, finely on the disc.

Legs reddish, the tarsal grooves indistinct. Protibiae with 7-8 dents.

Length: PE—2.0 mm; total: 2.5 mm; width: 1.4 mm.

Holotype and paratype, sex undetermined: Kerala, Cardamom Hills, 13 km northeast of Munnar, 26 XI 1972, 1900 m, 2 specimens sieved in forest.

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